

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2022

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Sara Brenner

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

Prelude

Reflections
Judy Steiner

Mark Hayes

Scripture

Luke 14:25-33

Ruth Naylor

Message

Family: For Better, For Worse

Ray Person

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 199 *O God, You Search Me*

Living God's Story

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 139

One: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

Many: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

One: you discern my thoughts from far away.

Many: You search out my path and my lying down,

One: and are acquainted with all my ways.

Many: Even before a word is on my tongue,

One: O LORD, you know it completely.

Many: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

All: it is so high that I cannot attain it.

*Hymn of Response

VT 576 *Who Now Would Follow Christ*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Praise His Greatness

Mark Hayes

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 813 *Heart with Loving Heart United*

*Benediction

*Postlude

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children
Hymn

Carrie Mast
VT 516 *Jesus Loves Me*

(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH
419-358-5766 | fmclubffton.org

September 4, 2022
First Mennonite Church

Pastor of Pastoral Care Jeff Boehr, 419-236-9150
jeff@fmclubffton.org

Director of Music/Interim Church Administrator Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368
sudermanme@bluffton.edu

Interim Pastor of Christian Education & Administration Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568
mastc@bluffton.edu

Communication Coordinator Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766
fmc@fmclubffton.org

Caretaker Don Burris, 419-788-6157
caretaker@fmclubffton.org

Technology Coordinator Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769
rayraeburn@gmail.com

First Mennonite Church Office Hours
• Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Melissa Friesen

Chancel: Sara Brenner

8/21/22 - 8/28/22
Reported Volunteer hours: 28
Attendance :111
Online viewers: 30

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.



Worship Service Live Stream - <http://fmcbluffton.org/live-stream/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wendell Miller will be having back surgery in Columbus on **September 8**. Prayers for his surgery and recovery are appreciated.

Marilyn Diller had surgery at Blanchard Valley Regional Health Center in Findlay. The surgery was successful and she is recovering at Mennonite Memorial Home. She is also receiving rehab therapy. Marilyn and her family are grateful for the prayers of the congregation and welcome prayer for her continued recovery.

John Mackey's surgery went well. He is home healing and resting. Julie and the family would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers during this time.

Sunday School begins! All children and youth will meet for a combined class on the Jackson St. lawn on Sept. 4 & 11. In case of rain, meet in the ViP Room. Adult SS class options include the **Faithful Living Class** in the Fellowship Hall, **Faith & Life** in the Parlor, **Freudige** on the 3rd floor, and **Sojourners** in the Assembly Room in the basement. If you are interested in a class but aren't sure where to go or which is a good fit, we can help you connect with a member of a class or direct you to a meeting space! Contact Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568 or mastc@bluffton.edu.

The Freudige Sunday School class will be studying the book *All Authority Has Been Given to Me: Hearing and Seeing Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew* by Tim Lehman. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. If you would like a book (roughly \$16), contact **Mary Edmiston** at edmistonmary100@gmail.com or 419-230-9659.

The Faithful Living class welcomes visitors to attend our class on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall at 9:15. Come as often as your schedule allows and bring a friend. We will be using a blend of the 2022 fall curriculum along with discussion topics of interest. If you have questions, please contact **Greg Ring** at: h.greg.ring@gmail.com or by calling 419-379-5310.

The Bluffton Released Time **Weekday Christian Education** program, which has been graciously hosted by First Mennonite Church for many years, will be changing location to the First United Methodist Church this school year.

Mark Suderman will be out of the office from September 6 - 13.
Trusty Schumacher will be out of the office September 8 & 9.

The Sojourners Sunday School class meets for Bible study each week in the basement Assembly Room. The class uses MennoMedia's Salt & Light curriculum, and various members serve as teachers. Contact **Lori Nester** with questions at nesterl@bluffton.edu or 419-358-9650.

Noodle Night is back! All are welcome to come and go as your schedules allow on Wednesday evenings between 4:45 and 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for pasta, red sauce, and applesauce. Bring a dish to share or just show up! There is always plenty!

Challenged Champions Equestrian Center serves individuals with special needs through therapeutic horseback riding. They serve over 400 clients a year, and need a lot of community support. They are in need of volunteers. There is no horse experience needed, volunteers must be 14 and older, and be able to walk for an hour. Training classes will be offered. *See fliers on the bulletin boards for more details*

Everence Financial will host a free, four-part webinar series starting in September: Managing your finances – faithfully! In this series, you'll hear important information on topics like, Women and Money, Stewardship Investing, Financial Planning and Retirement Income. The webinars will be presented by Everence professionals and there will be plenty time for your questions.

To register, or for more information, visit <https://www.everence.com/national>.

Save the date: MHCO will host a Gala October 13 at 6:00 pm to support the Mission of MHCO – specifically the Benevolent Care program. The event will include a meal, a raffle and auction items including desserts and other exciting experiences from Service Group member churches and others. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk of any of our campuses or reach out to Chris Moser if you would like a ticket. For more details go to: MHCOLIVING.ORG/mhcos-inaugural-gala-october-13th/

MCC School kit collection will be completed on September 11.



Happy Birthday!

September 4 - Paul Neufeld Weaver

September 5 - Wendell Miller
Elam Suter

September 6 - Pete Suter

September 7 - Ken Graber

Landon Novak

September 8 - Rachel Diller

Melissa Friesen

Denny Phillips



In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

follow us



Today, Sunday, September 4, 2022

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.

Worship: Ray Person preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, September 5

OFFICE CLOSED for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 6

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, September, 7

Noodle Night, come & go between 4:45 & 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday

Sunday, September 11

Worship -Carrie Mast preaching

Lectionary: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

Welcome to our worship service today.

If you are a visitor, please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Wireless hearing aids are available. Worship bags and nursery space are available for young children during worship. Bags can be found hanging on wooden pegs at each sanctuary entrance, and parents are invited to stay in the nursery with their children.